



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

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China

Partnering for
sustainable
food security



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**Partnering for
sustainable
food security**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Rome, 2019

Required citation:

FAO. 2019. *FAO + China – Partnering for sustainable food security*. Rome. 40 pp. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

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Acknowledgements

FAO would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Chinese Government entities that contributed to this partnership report. Particular thanks goes to the Permanent Representation of the People's Republic of China to FAO for its generous support and time in producing this document.

This report was produced under the overall patronage of the Assistant Director-General, Programme Support and Technical Cooperation Department, Roberto Ridolfi, and the guidance of Gustavo González, Director, Business Development and Resource Mobilization Division (PSR). The report conceptualization was led by Kazuki Kitaoka, Team Leader (Marketing, Outreach and Reporting). The report was produced by Pablo Rabczuk, Programme Officer, Irene Pirca and Lorenzo Gentile, Outreach and Marketing Experts, and written by Hayley Benjamin. Editorial support was provided by Hechu Zhu, South–South Cooperation Specialist. Layout was provided by Heather Perreault.

The information presented is the result of contributions from across FAO, which involved numerous colleagues working at headquarters and in decentralized offices. The report would not have been possible without the valuable contributions and review provided by FAO Regional, Country and Liaison Offices, the Office of South–South and Triangular Cooperation (OSS), the FAO–China South–South Cooperation Management Unit, the GIAHS Secretariat, the IPPC Secretariat, the Office for Corporate Communication (OCC), the Office of the Director General (ODG) and the FAO Technical Departments and Divisions. Particular appreciation goes to Liu Zhongwei, Vanja Bozic, Charmaine Gandiwa Mudede, Anna Trolle-Lindgren, and Tiantian Xiang for their invaluable guidance, support and inputs.

Acronyms

APO	Associate Professional Officer
ASF	African swine fever
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
CASEF	China Agricultural Science and Education Foundation
CEECA	Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia
CNY	Chinese yuan
CPM	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G8	Group of Eight
GFS	Guangfa Securities
GIAHS	Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IYPH	International Year of Plant Health
MARA	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs [China]
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NIAHS	Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
NPFS	National Programme for Food Security
NRO	National Reporting Obligation
PPR	Peste des petits ruminants
RBA	Rome-based Agency
RC	Reference Centre
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSC	South–South Cooperation
TAD	Transboundary Animal Disease
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
UN	United Nations
USD	United States dollar

Partnership at a glance

As a country with a population of over 1.3 billion people, China has always attached great importance to food and agricultural development. After resuming its membership of FAO in 1973, the country has been maintaining a close cooperation with the Organization. In 1982, FAO announced the establishment of a Representation Office in China and, not long afterwards, the country entered an important era of “reform and opening up”. Over the past four decades, FAO and China have enjoyed a solid partnership covering a large number of the country’s priority areas for food and agricultural development, including innovative intensification of agricultural production, revitalization of ecosystems and biodiversity, global health and poverty reduction. Throughout the years FAO has provided technical support to over 400 field projects in China — using several modalities including the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) — assisting tens of millions of beneficiaries across the country. The support provided has served as a catalyst to bridge technical gaps and build capacity by extending specific knowledge and technologies to the field. This has allowed China to access international experience and pilot its own new approaches towards achieving its development goals and targets.

After three decades of economic reform, China is now the second largest economy in the world. This has allowed the country to start using its own achievements at home to help fight hunger and rural poverty in other countries. As reflected in its support to FAO, China is a strong advocate of South–South technical exchanges and knowledge sharing initiatives. In 1996, the country launched a special project within FAO’s South–South Cooperation (SSC) Programme and under the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security. Since then, China has been acting as a significant participant and active supporter of FAO’s SSC Programme. This has been in line with a changing trend from a one-way development assistance from FAO to China, to a two-way collaboration, sharing China’s experience in agricultural development and food security. What is more, in 2009, the Government of China provided substantial funds for the establishment of an SSC Trust Fund. This was a milestone in the development of the FAO–China partnership, raising cooperation to a new level. To date, a total of CNY 539 million (USD 80 million)¹ have been provided by the country to support FAO’s efforts in alleviating poverty and increasing food security, through China’s development experiences and technical assistance.

FAO and China entered into a new era of collaboration in 2016, when China and the UN Rome-based Agencies agreed to expand their partnership and enhance SSC in China, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership. The latter, will foster innovation, synergies and complementarities in the realization of China’s national development goals in line with its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), to achieve the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda. The BRI promotes economic development in China and other countries through infrastructure expansion and better connectivity. Likewise, it supports poverty alleviation, whilst improving rural development and food security.

In the period 2014–2018, China’s voluntary contributions to FAO amounted to CNY 202 million (USD 30 million), 59 percent of which went to interregional projects, followed by Africa (24 percent of total contributions) and Asia (17 percent). In addition, China’s resources have contributed to activities across FAO’s Strategic Framework, though the largest share of funding during the 2014–2018 period went to the Organization’s efforts to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable (52 percent), followed by its work to enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems (24 percent).

FAO greatly values China’s willingness to work with and through the Organization in a variety of ways, which is also mirrored in the country’s continuous support through its human capital. In the period 2014–2019, China’s human resource contributions to FAO as a knowledge organization have been channeled through 15 Associate Professional Officers (APOs), 40 interns, 4 volunteers and 4 fellows, as well as numerous Chinese FAO staff around the world. This makes FAO a strong partner in disseminating China’s rich know-how, experience and technologies in support of the 2030 Agenda. Going forward, the partnership between China and FAO will remain vital for the provision of cutting-edge policy advice, technical assistance on food security and safety, sustainable agricultural development, the management of natural resources, surveillance and control of transboundary animal and plant diseases, protection of agricultural heritages, climate change, private sector development, gender equality, and towards broader efforts to achieve a Zero Hunger world.

¹ Values in Chinese yuan (CNY) in this report are based on the exchange rate as of 26 April 2019 (USD 1 = CNY 6.738).

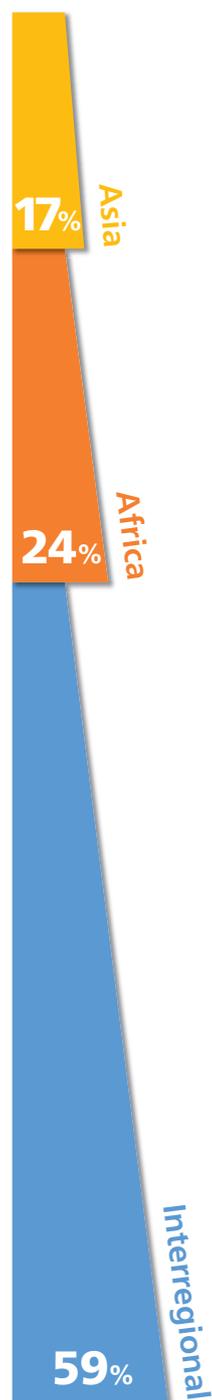
In figures

Total contributions of China to FAO (assessed and voluntary) 2014–2018

CNY 1 179 211 955

(USD 175 009 195)

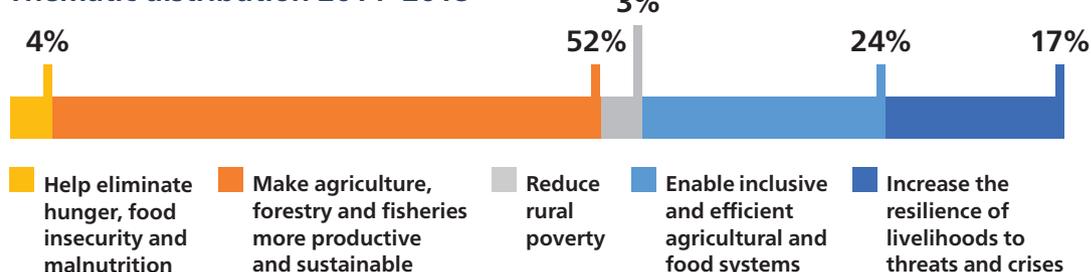
Regional distribution 2014–2018*



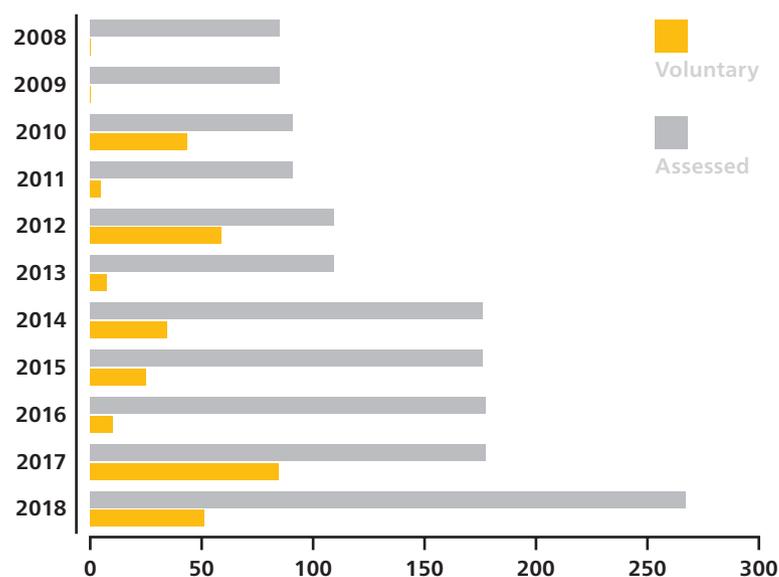
Category distribution 2014–2018*



Thematic distribution 2014–2018*



Trend of assessed and voluntary contributions (CNY million) 2008–2018



* This only refers to voluntary contributions, based on approvals.

Farmers gather rice seedlings in preparation for the second planting season of the year
©FAO/Veejay Villafranca



Timeline of significant events from 2009–2019

- 2009** + FAO and China signed an MoU, providing substantial funds to establish an SSC Trust Fund for the creation of the FAO–China SSC Programme with a contribution of CNY 202 million (USD 30 million).
- 2010** + The FAO–China SSC Programme launched its first SSC project in Mongolia to enhance the National Programme for Food Security (NPFS).
- 2012** + FAO and China signed an MoU on strengthening cooperation during FAO Director-General’s visit to China, to bolster joint efforts to defeat hunger, increase agricultural production and improve rural livelihoods.
- 2013** + FAO and China jointly organized a High-Level Forum in Nigeria, attended by 15 countries engaged in SSC, FAO partners and donor agencies. The forum led to the adoption of the Abuja Declaration on SSC to explore new areas and modalities of multilateral agricultural SSC.
- 2014** + FAO officially designated five FAO Reference Centers for SSC coordination, research and training in China to promote the transfer of technology and knowledge from China to other developing countries.
- 2015** + China contributed CNY 337 million (USD 50 million) to FAO in support of the FAO–China SSC Programme, by signing an MoU to promote sustainable agricultural development and help improve food security in developing countries.
- 2016** + The RBAs agreed to expand their partnership with China to enhance SSC, with an MoU on the establishment of a comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership.
- 2018** + FAO and China jointly hosted the Ministerial-Level Forum on Global SSC in Agriculture, and issued the Changsha Declaration, which defined clear ways to include SSC principles into national policies and programmes, especially the ones targeting the elimination of hunger and malnutrition.
- 2019** + FAO and China celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of the FAO–China SSC Trust Fund.

FAO works with
government departments
to improve agricultural
investments through
technical devices
©FAO/Mohammad
Rakibul Hasan



Working together for innovative solutions

FAO joins hands with multiple partners to create innovative agricultural models on poverty reduction. In recent years, the Organization's work — including that with non-state actors — has witnessed major progress in promoting and expanding partnerships for innovation so as to support inclusive pro-poor development in rural and peri-urban areas in target countries and within China.

In 2012, for example, FAO and China signed an MoU to strengthen their cooperation, and to promote relevant Chinese research and training institutions. This resulted in the designation of five Chinese institutions as FAO Reference Centres (RCs), namely the **FAO RC for South–South Cooperation Coordination, Research and Training**; the **FAO RC for Aquaculture and Inland Fishery Research and Training**; the **FAO RC for Hybrid Rice Research and Training**; the **FAO RC for Tropical Agriculture Research and Training**; and the **FAO RC for Biogas Research and Training**. The rationale was to have the RCs as international training centres in support of the FAO–China collaboration, to provide agriculture technology assistance to other developing countries. Over the period 2014–2018,

several activities were conducted with the five RCs, and a report was finalized in December 2018, highlighting the activities implemented, the achievements and lessons learned, as well as the recommendations for future cooperation.

Moreover, an MoU was signed in November 2018 between FAO and the China Agricultural Science and Education Foundation (CASEF), through which both have agreed to mobilize funding for agricultural cooperation initiatives in selected localities in collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and other concerned stakeholders. At the same time, an MoU is currently being developed between Guangfa Securities (GFS) and CASEF, entailing a contribution of CNY 6.7 million (USD 1 million) from GFS to CASEF in support of FAO's agricultural development programme and country programming framework in China. Under this agreement – the first of its kind between the Organization and private-sector partners in China – FAO and the Chinese Government aspire to deepen and expand their collaboration by designing and delivering innovative projects to improve the livelihoods of people in rural areas.

Improving China's agricultural market monitoring system

Global food shortages and economic crises have highlighted weaknesses in market information, databases and warning/monitoring systems for food security. During the Group of Eight (G8) industrialized countries' Agriculture Summit in April 2009, when agriculture and food security were at the top of the international agenda, it was recognized that there was an urgent need to improve national and international food market monitoring and early warning systems.

As one of the world's leading producers and consumers of many staple foods, it was essential that China improved agricultural and food information systems and enhanced market analysis capabilities, so that strategies could be developed to prevent instability in food supplies in both domestic and global grain markets. In light of this, the Government of China asked FAO to provide assistance in developing a short and medium-term outlook model for China's agriculture; and in building a communication platform for agricultural market monitoring and an early warning system, both in China and in other countries.

The initiative supported the World Agricultural Outlook Conference held in Beijing in 2013, which included the publication of the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2013-2022, with a special chapter entitled "Feeding China". In addition, the project provided training sessions for government agricultural commodity analysts, national consultants and stakeholders in agricultural monitoring and early-warning technology, and in short-, medium- and long-term analyses of domestic and international agricultural markets, commodity balance sheets, FAO agricultural modelling systems and databases.

All in all, the project managed to improve China's commodity balance sheets; increase the country's capacity to make short-, medium- and long-term agricultural projections; improve market monitoring systems; and strengthen cooperation and information flow.

Bean sprouts on display at
a local market in Beijing
©FAO/Justin Jin



FAO provides assistance to control food safety threats, plant and animal pests and diseases
©FAO/Zinyange Auntony



Fostering Zero Hunger and rural development through South–South Cooperation

Since 1996, China has been the major participant, supporter and promoter of FAO's SSC Programme, which emphasizes the sharing of agricultural technologies, experience and development solutions among countries of the Global South. In 2008, the Government of China contributed CNY 202 million (USD 30 million) to FAO as an SSC Trust Fund to create the FAO–China SSC Programme. Following considerable success during its first phase, the programme entered a second phase in 2015 and the Trust Fund expanded to a total of CNY 539 million (USD 80 million).

Through the FAO–China SSC Programme, China has deployed over 1 000 experts and technicians to 37 countries in Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. These experts have conducted a number of demonstrations and field training sessions for local farmers and technicians, and made important contributions to developing countries in irrigation, horticulture, livestock, agriculture, crop production, agroforestry, agriculture mechanization, food processing, marketing of agricultural products, agriculture machinery manufacturing and others.

The FAO–China SSC Programme has produced impressive results over the years. Around 450 practical agricultural technologies have been transferred to host countries; 300 suitable crop varieties have been tested, and 200 sets of agricultural machinery tools designed or introduced; nearly 300 pilot demonstrations have been conducted in more than 80 project sites; 450 research reports and recommendations have been prepared and submitted; and nearly 30 000 local farmers and agriculture technicians have received field training. In all, more than one million beneficiaries have been reached.

Moreover, innovative study tours conducted under the SSC country projects have expanded the coverage of the Programme's benefits from the grassroots and institutional levels to the policy level, and have allowed participants to directly observe the agricultural and rural development achievements made in China. This has generated an enhanced understanding and trust between host countries and China, while the visits and exchanges of experts have led to the broader promotion of economic and trade cooperation.

Ministerial-Level Forum on Global SSC in Agriculture

In November 2018, more than 200 representatives from nearly 30 developing countries, 12 international organizations, and the heads of the RBAs gathered in Changsha, Hunan province, China, to attend the Ministerial-Level Forum on Global SSC in Agriculture, which was jointly organized by FAO and China. The forum announced the Changsha Declaration, which defined clear ways to include SSC principles into national policies and programmes, especially the ones targeting the elimination of hunger and malnutrition. The recommendations proposed in the declaration specifically included: mainstreaming SSC into policies, programmes and strategies; strengthening SSC synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global strategic initiatives; scaling up best practices and fostering the transfer of solutions through SSC; enhancing SSC connectivity and global partnership for sustainable development; empowering SSC under UN coordinated efforts; and enhancing financial support and investments to promote SSC partnerships.

The Changsha Declaration also highlighted the strong partnership between FAO and China on SSC, particularly after the setting of the FAO–China SSC Programme. Furthermore, the document recognized the key importance of the RBAs’ coordinated role on SSC to support Member Nations in achieving the SDGs; addressed the challenges related to food security and nutrition, as well as sustainable agricultural and rural development; and provided recommendations on the next steps for SSC at the global level.

Moreover, the Programme Guidelines for Projects under the FAO–China SSC Programme were issued and distributed. These capture lessons learned and successful experiences from the implementation of the FAO–China SSC Programme in the past and play a leading role for implementing all types of SSC projects at FAO, significantly contributing to streamlining and standardizing operational procedures in each step within FAO’s project cycle.

Strengthening effective responses to regional and global challenges

FAO's SSC initiative has provided essential support to the implementation of National and Regional Programmes for Food Security. A seven-year project (2010–2017) funded by China (CNY 40 million [USD 6 million]) under the FAO–China Trust Fund supported early SSC programme implementation, coordination and management through the recruitment of staff, provision of backstopping and support in organizing capacity building activities in China and other countries at global and regional levels, as well as the implementation of SSC projects in host developing countries.

During the project, 2 high-level policy dialogues, 11 high-level workshops and 10 training courses were organized and supported, focusing on global and regional issues of common concern to all developing countries, and covering topics such as hybrid rice, maize, aquaculture and fisheries, tropical agriculture, biogas and rural renewable energy, agricultural market information and trade, agricultural development policy, and the scoping assessment of capacity needs. Approximately 800 participants from more than 100 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America participated in these activities, with nearly 400 participants attending the high-level events. In addition, 7 international and 18 national programme officers/consultants were recruited at FAO headquarters in Rome and at the FAO Representation in China, to ensure SSC project coordination, management and implementation, and partnership development.

In 2017, a new Chinese-funded initiative (CNY 34 million [USD 5 million]) was launched to build on the success of the initial project, expanding the number of countries, partners and topics being engaged through SSC. With additional technical training courses and policy dialogues, the five-year project is seeking to improve the capacity of policy makers and technical experts at global, regional and national levels. In addition to expanding partnership development — including through Triangular Cooperation agreements — in support of SSC in developing countries, the project aims to further the development of flexible modalities to meet the growing requests for SSC. To date, three capacity-development workshops have taken place in China: the Seafood Market Access Workshop in Fuzhou, the Training and Workshop on Biogas in Chengdu and the Pesticide Risk Management Workshop in Shanghai.



Farmer using a magnifying glass to check rice seeds for insects
©FAO/Olivier Asselin

Investing in food security and sustainable agriculture

Nearly 80 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas where people depend on agriculture, fisheries or forestry as their main source of income and food. Tackling poverty and hunger requires a recognition that food and nutrition security are intrinsically linked to rural livelihoods. As greater numbers of people tend to migrate to cities in search of a better life, it is increasingly important that investments in the agricultural sector provide rural communities with sufficient incentives to remain on the land with the opportunity to meet their livelihood needs and live a life of dignity.

FAO coordinates work on nutrition to protect, promote and improve nutrition-sensitive food systems. Eradicating hunger in all its forms requires the whole agricultural supply chain, food systems and communities to be healthy, productive, sustainable and resilient. FAO involves national institutions in policies and actions to stimulate both the production and the consumption of nutritious food and to ensure product safety for human

consumption. This also requires adopting production techniques that are smarter in the way they use scarce natural resources and proactive about environmental threats and weather changes.

FAO, together with China, works on food systems that ensure agricultural development is people-centred and ultimately leads to improved access, availability and consumption of healthy foods for better nutrition and food security. Generating evidence around food systems, FAO has a long history of developing principles and tools to help governments build robust policies that support rural producers with links to new markets. Brokering new partnerships between farmers, governments and the private sector allows for more inclusive food systems that bring producer groups into information flows and policy discussions; contribute to national and global policymaking on food security; and improve consumer knowledge, and awareness of healthy diets.

Promoting understanding, awareness and recognition of agricultural heritage globally



Contribution:
CNY 13 million
(USD 2 million)



Beneficiaries:
small-scale farmers,
indigenous peoples,
women and youth



Location:
80 countries



Duration:
2015–2018



Results:
57 GIAHS sites in
21 countries

**First GIAHS sites
in North America
and Europe**

**43 countries expressing
interest in the
GIAHS programme**

**Global awareness
of traditional
agriculture enhanced**

**GIAHS concept
mainstreamed into
national policies
and institutional
mechanisms**

“Agri-cultural” systems reflect the evolution of humanity and its profound harmony with nature. They have resulted not only in outstanding aesthetic values, and the maintenance of globally significant agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and cultural inheritance but, above all, the sustained provision of multiple goods and services, food, nutrition and livelihood security for the poorest and most remote communities. However, the continued survival of these agricultural heritage systems is threatened by several factors, such as the loss of customary institutions and forms of social organization that underpin the management of these systems; low economic viability and competition for access to markets; abandonment of traditional farming practices; conversion of land and habitats; displacement of indigenous communities; and dilution of traditional varieties and breeds by exotic and invasive species.

In order to safeguard the world’s threatened Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), FAO launched the GIAHS Partnership Initiative in 2002. This initiative is an integrated policy and action framework that brings pride and self-confidence to nations and rural communities through global recognition of their agricultural heritage systems and accompanying action plans for their dynamic conservation.

A Chinese-funded project helped to strengthen the implementation of the GIAHS initiative. More than 80 countries benefited from the project’s capacity building activities, including global GIAHS high-level trainings organized in China and national GIAHS workshops. The learning and knowledge exchange experience improved the capacity of FAO Member Nations to apply for GIAHS recognition and led to the initiation of GIAHS application processes in more than half of the participating countries. To date, the number of GIAHS sites has increased from 32 sites in 14 countries to 57 sites in 21 countries, including the first GIAHS sites in North America and Europe. In addition, there is a growing demand to join the GIAHS programme around the world — a total of 43 countries are currently expressing an interest.

As a result of the project’s capacity building activities and various international campaigns, global awareness of the values of traditional agricultural systems has been significantly enhanced. Importantly, the project also helped to mainstream the GIAHS concept into national policies and institutional mechanisms. A number of countries have developed Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (NIAHS) programmes and established GIAHS national committees or commissions, responsible for the selection and dynamic conservation of the sites.

Moreover, in April 2018, the GIAHS International Forum and Award Ceremony for the newly designated sites was held in Rome. During the ceremony, the Director-General of FAO awarded the official certificates to all newly designated GIAHS sites since 2016.

Strengthening the implementation of GIAHS

China was one of the GIAHS initiative's pioneering countries in 2005, and has since become the lead country in promoting both GIAHS and NIAHS, including through capacity building activities under the SSC framework. Since 2004, China's MARA — with the cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the coordination of local governments and the support of experts and local people — has carried out a series of activities, including pilot site selection, recommendations, exploration, conservation and development, as well as expertise extension and research facilitation.

Over the years, MARA's efforts have produced significant social, ecological and economic benefits. The work on GIAHS has substantially pushed forward sustainable agricultural development and rural ecological conservation, and identified effective approaches to improve agricultural efficiency, increase farmers' incomes, maintain rural stability and address problems related to agriculture. It has also made remarkable contributions to agricultural heritage conservation and agricultural cooperation at the global level.

MARA has established a dynamic, science-based and multi-participant mechanism for GIAHS conservation. Local authorities at GIAHS sites in China have been encouraged to set up specific agencies and draw up plans and management measures to improve the conservation and utilization of agricultural heritage systems. Thanks to the joint efforts of MARA and local authorities, GIAHS in China have successfully maintained their indigenous biodiversity, distinct farming practices and cultural traditions, and attracted increased agricultural investments with robust agricultural tourism and increased added value.



Local researcher received training in selecting high-quality wheat
©FAO/Jenna Jadin

Enhancing food security through improved agricultural production and productivity in Namibia



Contribution:
CNY 10 million
(USD 1.5 million)



Beneficiaries:
small-scale farmers



Location:
Kavango, Zambezi
and Omusati regions,
Namibia



Duration:
2014–2017



Results:
15 Chinese experts
deployed to Namibia

Rice yields in Kalimbeza
increased by 10%

15 new rice varieties
from China and 1 foxtail
millet variety under trial

13 SSC workshops
conducted

434 Namibian farmers
and government
officials trained in
rice production

FAO’s SSC Programme exemplifies how development projects can be driven through a cross-pollination of ideas. A Tripartite Agreement between FAO, the Government of China and the Government of Namibia — within the context of the FAO–China SSC Strategic Partnership — allowed for important results to be delivered towards meeting key Namibian development priorities. With contributions from China over two years, 15 Chinese experts were deployed to support the implementation of Namibia’s Fourth National Development Plan, Green Scheme Policy and development plans targeting the improvement of agricultural production and productivity, in order to enhance food security.

The initiative effectively inculcated a sense of business and entrepreneurial spirit in farmers who were engaged in the Etunda Irrigation Scheme, the Kalimbeza Rice Project and the Omahenene Research Station, as well as irrigation projects in the Kavango Region. The project was also highly successful in terms of the results achieved, and the continued engagement and implementation of the learned policies and mechanisms will be a key point for beneficiaries to continue to improve their agricultural practices in the future. Moreover, the initiative played an important role in complementing Namibia’s efforts to increase agricultural production. Rice yields at Kalimbeza increased by more than 10 percent and 15 new rice varieties from China and 1 foxtail millet variety are under trial to determine their adaptability in the country.

During the project, several field visits and 13 SSC workshops were conducted, allowing about 434 Namibian farmers and government officials to be trained in rice production, soil and pest management, and foxtail millet and horticulture production. As a result of the interventions, beneficiaries improved their farming techniques. Constant follow-up and implementation of the ideas they benefited from are key components in ensuring that Namibia takes advantage from such arrangements, to help the country become self-sustainable in food production.

Improving agricultural skills brings hope to small-scale farmers in Namibia

John Haingura and Lukas Mushishi are small-scale farmers attached to the Etunda Green Scheme Irrigation project. Each of them was allocated 3 hectares (ha) of land at the irrigation scheme, and they mostly farmed with cereal and horticultural crops, such as maize, butternut, tomato, onion, cabbage and wheat. The two farmers were beneficiaries of the SSC project, and when interviewed they could not hide their joy, saying that their

engagement with the Chinese experts will go a long way towards improving their agricultural skills and enabling them to run their farming projects as viable businesses.

“We have learned a lot in using methods that save water, especially drip irrigation,” said Lukas. He learned that drip irrigation also reduces the leaching of plant nutrients from the soil; this is saving him a lot of money, as he uses far less water.

For his part, John said, “I have learned quite a lot, from soil preparation to seed preparation, all thanks to this project. Now I am able to do everything up to harvesting, and can gladly say I can also train other Namibians.”

Young farmer harvesting vegetable crops

©FAO



Supporting agricultural policy development in Uganda



Contribution:
CNY 11 million
(USD 1.6 million)



Beneficiaries:
small-scale farmers and
agribusiness enterprises



Location:
Uganda



Duration:
2016–2018



Results:
7 agricultural technology
demonstration
hubs established

3 000 farmers and
80 extension staff
members trained

3 capacity-development
study tours undertaken

7 Chinese companies
invested in Uganda

In Uganda, although opportunities for efficient agriculture, forestry and fisheries exist, a host of challenges facing these sectors prevent them from achieving their full potential. Farming is largely subsistence, characterized by low on-farm production and productivity. Inadequate investments have largely prevented commercialization, while food and nutrition insecurity and critical gender issues remain entrenched in some parts of the country.

Thanks to resources from China, phase 2 of Uganda's first SSC project was rolled out from 2016 to 2018. The latter supported the implementation of the country's Agricultural Sector Strategy Plan (2015–2020), FAO Uganda's Country Programming Framework (2015–2019) and other agricultural policies aimed at enhancing national food security and household incomes through the fielding of Chinese experts and technicians, while promoting trade and investments in agriculture.

Seven agricultural technology demonstration hubs were established, showcasing Chinese technologies in horticulture, livestock, cereals, aquaculture, renewable energy, agromachinery value addition, and sustainable business models. Over 3 000 farmers and 80 extension staff members were trained. In addition, three capacity-development study tours for policy and technical staff were undertaken in China. One Agricultural Cooperation Industrial Park was consolidated in Luwero and Kalungu districts, and seven more Chinese companies invested in Uganda under the guidance and support of the project.

In order to sustain the project outcomes, capacity development for staff in the areas of gender, environment, human rights, and technological and economic sustainability were considered. Transferring cooperants, integrating project activities into the ongoing government agricultural programmes, and cost-sharing are largely credited with contributing to the project's success.

Ultimately, thanks to the project's capacity-development activities and the establishment of trade and investment linkages, producers were able to increase their production and productivity in horticulture, cereals, aquaculture, livestock and cross-cutting technologies. What is more, the project significantly helped to strengthen cooperation between China and Uganda.

Sustainable farming technologies advance crop yields

In line with Sustainable Development Goal 2, the project helped farmers to increase rice production from 2.5 to 10 tonnes/hectare; produce 5 tonnes of foxtail millet/hectare, compared to the 2 tonnes of local finger millet; and significantly increase incomes

up to USD 3 514/acre of rice-fish culture field, thereby improving their livelihoods. Other achievements included increasing milk production from 2 to 7 litres/cow/day; and increasing the mushroom substrate stock by more than 100 percent through substrate chopper technology, which increased the spawn by over 40 percent thanks to the oyster mushroom strains introduced by the project. This increased annual mushroom production from 1.5 to 1.8 tonnes on one farm. All in all, agriculture cooperation between China and Uganda was strengthened.



Improving national and household food security in Mongolia



Contribution:
CNY 16 million
(USD 2.4 million)



Beneficiaries:
more than 1 000
small-scale farmers
and consumers



Location:
Mongolia



Duration:
2010–2016



Results:
Trials of artificial
insemination and
embryo transfer
conducted

**New varieties of annual
and perennial fodder
crops demonstrated
for cultivation**

**Silage-making
technology and
practices piloted**

**Queen bee rearing and
management of bee
colonies introduced**

**Vegetable production,
cultivation technologies
and practices for new
vegetables implemented**

In Mongolia, where the growing season lasts for just 90 days, weather conditions have become increasingly unpredictable, affecting crop production and, in turn, dietary diversity and nutrition. Malnutrition is high and diets are imbalanced. What is more, limited technical capacities in Mongolia's food and agricultural sector impact the country's ability to implement policies and programmes to improve production and productivity.

Since 2010, support from China has helped to address this gap in technical capacity, with Chinese experts travelling to Mongolia to share their knowledge in technical areas such as animal husbandry, crop production, food safety and trade. The specialists from the two countries have much in common, possessing a shared language, culture and agroecological conditions — factors that have contributed to an invaluable exchange. During phase I of the initiative, the transferred knowledge was successfully adopted at local level, supporting national and household food security as well as agricultural intensification and diversification across Mongolia.

Based on the project's initial achievements, the governments of Mongolia and China moved ahead with phase II, involving the expanded use of key technologies introduced during the first phase and the deployment of additional Chinese experts tasked with enhancing technical capacities for bee farming, animal feed production, horticulture, poultry production, livestock, animal husbandry and aquaculture.

Concrete results were achieved across Mongolia's agricultural subsectors. In the livestock and animal husbandry subsector, trials of artificial insemination and embryo transfer were conducted. To improve animal feed production, new varieties of annual and perennial fodder crops were demonstrated for cultivation, and silage-making technology and practices were piloted. With regard to bee farming, the technology and practices for queen bee rearing and the management and maintenance of bee colonies were introduced to beekeepers. In horticulture and vegetable production, cultivation technologies and practices for new vegetable varieties, and the management and maintenance of greenhouses, were introduced and piloted to vegetable farmers. In terms of aquaculture, technical assistance was provided to design an artificial pond and a study was conducted to find suitable species for research on fish breeding. Chicken farmers received technical assistance in improved technologies and practices of feed supply, infectious disease analysis and control, and the rearing management of chicks and adult chickens.

Local business boosts chick and egg production

During the exchange, Chinese experts provided technical assistance helping Tunem Shuvuut Co. — a leading processing plant in Mongolia — to establish technical standards, enhance daily farm management and carry

out vaccinations. A research laboratory for chicken feed and bacterial testing was also established. Thanks to these contributions, the growth rate of chicks jumped from 54 to 86 percent and their survival rate reached an all-time high of 96 percent at 17 weeks. Furthermore, egg supply increased through enhanced domestic feed production and the establishment of the first chicken farm veterinary laboratory in Mongolia.

FAO brings practical support to some of the most vulnerable Mongolian small-holders
©FAO/K.Purevraqcha





Farmer holding a recently born sheep
©FAO

Promoting trade and global health security

The world's food and agricultural systems are essential to the health and well-being of every woman, man, girl and boy on Earth. Ensuring that everyone has access to the nutrients they require is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of human societies, but ensuring that food systems grow and develop in ways that can meet the needs of all people is a task that is best accomplished through well-developed cooperation that includes trade, innovation and investment, as well as shared rules for safety and fairness in all aspects of production, distribution and consumption.

FAO and China share a commitment to strive for safe food for all. One of the most tangible ways in which the Organization contributes to the daily lives of people around the world is in developing and promoting international standards around the production and trade of food. From food labelling to the safe flow of plant products, FAO brokers international guidelines and hosts a myriad of commissions and governing bodies that keep our food safe and our food production sustainable into the future. Facilitating trade, keeping plants and animals healthy and ensuring that benefits are shared by all are essential parts of FAO's and China's mission to strengthen national institutions and global food governance.

As part of its global effort to keep food chains safe and consumers healthy, FAO is also a key international player in the control of food-borne health threats, including animal diseases and the overuse of pesticides and antibiotics in food production. Transboundary animal diseases are highly contagious and spread rapidly, irrespective of national borders. These epidemics cause high rates of death and illness in animals, with serious economic and sometimes public health consequences. Animal diseases also constitute a constant threat to the livelihoods of livestock farmers. Zoonotic diseases — those transmissible to humans — are of particular concern as they can cause serious illness and sometimes death in humans, while placing a burden on public health systems. But even the high-impact animal diseases that do not directly affect human health can affect the quality and quantity of food available for human consumption and cause considerable disruption to trade. This ultimately results in production losses and particularly affects countries relying on exports as a source of revenue.

FAO, with contributions from partners such as China, is allowing many countries to be better prepared to recognize and respond to emerging threats to health and food security.

Codex Alimentarius

China is a participant and strong supporter of the Codex Alimentarius by means of voluntary contributions, playing an important role in ensuring the safety, quality and fairness of international food trade. The Codex Alimentarius Commission sets international and regional standards, guidelines and codes of practice. The broad scope of Codex, covering areas such as contaminants, nutrition, food hygiene, additives, antimicrobial resistance, and pesticide and veterinary drug residues, makes it an essential part of achieving food security and Zero Hunger. In addition, food safety is of public concern, often placing Codex at the centre of global debate.

China currently hosts two Codex committees: the Committee on Food Additives, since 2007 (National Health Committee); and the Committee on Pesticide Residues, since 2007 (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs).

Regularly lending experts to the Codex Secretariat is also evidence of China's commitment to international food standard setting and the global work of Codex.



The Codex Commission is charged with protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
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Strengthening the capacity of developing countries to implement the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)



Contribution:
CNY 13 million
(USD 2 million)



Beneficiaries:
226 developing country
representatives from
over 100 countries



Location:
Global



Duration:
2017–2020



Results:
Capacity of developing
countries to implement
the IPPC and its standards
improved

**Awareness of the IPPC
increased at global,
regional and
national levels**

**Interregional cooperation
among 40 developing
countries on China's
Belt and Road
initiative enhanced**

**4 regional workshops
and 1 high-level
symposium organized**

1 pilot site established

FAO estimates that 20–40 percent of global crop production is lost annually to pests. Each year, plant diseases cost the global economy around USD 220 billion and invasive insects around USD 70 billion. Climate change has boosted the incidence of pests, while the global movement of people and agricultural goods has increased the risk of pests spreading. Developing countries are particularly vulnerable to negative impacts associated with these increased pressures because of their limited capacity to prevent and respond to pest introductions. As a result, there is an increasing demand by developing countries for technical assistance to improve their phytosanitary capacity to establish and maintain efficient plant protection institutions and frameworks.

With China's contribution over four years, FAO is implementing a global project to enhance the phytosanitary capacity of developing countries; promote bilateral and interregional cooperation on phytosanitary measures among the Belt and Road Initiative countries; promote human resources cooperation among China, the IPPC Secretariat and developing countries; and support the core IPPC communication activities towards the International Year of Plant Health in 2020. This project consists of an effective mechanism to facilitate cooperation on phytosanitary resources, technologies, innovations and knowledge among the BRI countries to improve their resilience to plant pest risks, thereby promoting trade.

To date, the project has supported two IPPC workshops in Africa and the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECA) regions, as well as two National Reporting Obligations (NROs) workshops in the South-West Pacific and CEECA regions. The project also organized an IPPC High-Level Symposium on Cooperation for Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese Initiative "One Road" Countries in Nanning, China from 25 to 28 September 2018: it was attended by over 40 participants and observers from 14 countries in Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as from three Regional Plant Protection organizations. Following this symposium, Sri Lanka was selected as a pilot country to conduct a phytosanitary capacity evaluation and undertake technical training sessions and demonstrations of phytosanitary products and technologies.

The International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)

The IPPC proposed the proclamation of an International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020, which was officially accepted by the UN General Assembly in December 2018. With financial support by the FAO–China–IPPC SSC project, FAO and the IPPC Secretariat have developed the global programme, and the communication strategy to launch the IYPH in New York and Rome in 2019, and to host a series of key events during the 15th ministerial-level Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM15) and the World Food Day in Rome in 2020.

The IYPH is a key initiative to highlight the importance of plant health to enhance food security, protect the environment and biodiversity, and boost economic development. Despite the increasing impact of plant pests, resources are scarce to address the problem. In light of this, the FAO–China SSC Programme will continuously support the IPPC Secretariat with the new IYPH, to trigger greater global collaboration in support of plant health policies at all levels, which will contribute significantly to the Agenda 2030.



Farmer collects samples of yellow tomato fisado virus

Boosting agricultural modernization in rural communities: the China–Uganda Agricultural Industrial Park



**Contribution
(facilitated by FAO):**
CNY 1.5 billion
(USD 220 million)



Beneficiaries:
small-scale farmers



Location:
5 districts in Uganda



Duration:
2012–2025



Expected results:
More than 40 Chinese agricultural experts dispatched to provide technical assistance

Modern agricultural systems developed on 70 000 ha of land

Employment opportunities created for 100 000 people

1 million people helped to increase their incomes

Yields increased up to 8.75 tonnes/ha in some demonstration fields

Echoing its own strategy of agricultural modernization, in recent years China has increasingly invested in the construction of agricultural industrial parks in a variety of developing countries. The infrastructure, services and facilities envisioned for such parks have the capability to drastically improve the production, processing and trade of agricultural products.

A significant investment from China is enabling the development of an agricultural industrial park across five districts in Uganda, as a means to help transform the country's agriculture from subsistence-based to commercial. Promoted and supported by an SSC project between FAO, China and Uganda, five private enterprises from China's Sichuan Province established the Sichuan Youhao Hengyuan Agricultural Development Co., Ltd, which has invested in and is building the park. To date, more than 40 Chinese agricultural experts have been dispatched to provide technical assistance in the park's development. Ultimately, the initiative aims towards the establishment of three centres: an Agricultural Production Technology Incubation Centre; an Agricultural Industry Cooperation Centre; and an Agricultural Products Process and Trade Centre.

Through these centres, the initiative will have created an agricultural industrial "chain" which integrates agricultural technology training, crop planting, livestock and poultry breeding, deep processing of agricultural products, agricultural machinery services, agricultural products trade, e-commerce logistics and investment cooperation services. The park will ultimately lead to the development of modern agricultural systems on 70 000 ha of land and provide 100 000 job opportunities, driving 1 million people to increase their incomes, all while improving Uganda's overall agricultural development and the international competitiveness of its products. Already, for example, agricultural equipment valued at more than CNY 6 million (USD 890 472) has helped to achieve the mechanization of rice planting in Uganda, enabling farmers to achieve historic yields (up to 8.57 tonnes/ha in some demonstration fields). The park is also driving the development of local agriculture by providing farmers with improved crop varieties, agricultural materials and free technical services, as well as facilitating stable cooperative relationships among farmers across the park area, thereby building bridges between farmers and markets.

Building capacities for the control of transboundary animal diseases in the Greater Mekong Subregion



Contribution:
CNY 20 million
(USD 3 million)



Beneficiaries:
governments, in
particular Ministries of
Agriculture and Animal
Health Departments



Location:
Cambodia, the Lao
People's Democratic
Republic and Myanmar
(Thailand and Viet Nam)



Duration:
2018–2021



Expected results:
Formal collaboration and
coordination platform
established to promote
TAD control

Animal disease risk
management improved

Strategies and
capacities developed
to prevent ASF

Countries gaining official
recognition as free
from Peste des Petits
Ruminants (PPR)

The FAO–China SSC project on Transboundary Animal Disease (TAD) Control in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) aims to decrease the risk of introduction and the impacts of TADs in GMS countries, as well as to promote safer trade within the region, thus contributing to the improvement of livelihoods, food and nutrition security. Since its inception, the project has provided a platform for countries in the subregion to collaborate and coordinate on the control of TADs.

African swine fever (ASF), one of the TADs targeted through the project, has recently been reported for the first time in Asia and has spread to four countries in the region. Since the first outbreak of ASF was reported in China, many activities have been carried out in an effort to contain the disease. Due to the existing demand for pork in the region, however, cross-border unofficial movement of pigs and pork products remains and poses risks to the region. Emergency preparedness and countries' capacities to detect early and respond rapidly to ASF are urgently required by all at-risk countries.

The existing partnerships and coordination among member countries of the SSC project has served as a platform for China to share disease information and its experience on ASF control with the GMS countries. ASF experts from China have been deployed to support the region in many ways, including conducting operational research to strengthen early detection by validating the use of pen-side detection devices, and sharing their experience at the field level in Viet Nam to identify risks of disease spread as well as practical and local experience in depopulation, disposal of carcasses and decontamination. Emergency missions to Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, supported by the SSC project, enabled them to prepare to minimize the risks of ASF economic losses once the disease had been introduced.

In addition, the information- and experience-sharing through international and regional events, including the Standing Group of Experts for ASF in Asia, will lay a good basis for the development of a Regional Strategy for ASF Prevention, Control and Eradication and even contribute to longer-term swine disease control and the improvement of swine production in Asia.



A FAO–China SSC project is strengthening transboundary animal disease control
©FAO/J. Koelen



A worker cultivating seedlings in a horticultural micro-garden training center
©FAO/Erick-Christian Ahounou

The way forward

China is positioning itself as a key partner for FAO in achieving agricultural development and the eradication of hunger. This is taking place through a variety of different modalities including the provision of expertise, capacity development and technological exchanges. FAO has begun to take full advantage of China's successful experience in support of food security through SSC. Meanwhile, China stands to benefit from FAO's continued support for its agricultural development and the acceleration of its transition to a modern and sustainable agriculture, including rural revitalization.

In the coming years, China and FAO will work around a comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership that will foster synergies and complementarities between several Chinese priorities, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (2016–2020) and the pursuit of the SDGs. Under FAO's and China's new MoU for the period 2016–2020, the cooperation will focus on a wide variety of areas, including policy support, agricultural investments, standard setting, poverty reduction, value chain development, underutilized crops, climate change, low-carbon rural energy, GIAHS protection, the Codex Alimentarius, ICTs, TADs, the One Health initiative and the development of agricultural demonstration parks. In addition, the establishment of a High-Level Dialogue Mechanism could help to further reinforce FAO's and China's existing collaboration in these various areas.

Both China and FAO will open up to new partners in order to develop innovative SSC modalities and scale up the scope of SSC initiatives. The main SSC partners include: governments of priority countries in Africa, Asia, Central Asia, Latin America and the Pacific Islands; international financial institutions and development agencies, including UN RBAs; universities and research institutions; and private-sector entities.

Moreover, China and FAO will continue to work through traditional modalities and by using innovative approaches such as Triangular Cooperation, in the pursuit of shared development goals. In line with this, the country is analysing the possibility of Triangular Cooperation projects with the Netherlands to upgrade the capacities of FAO's Reference Centres in China and to provide support to aquaculture value chain development in Ethiopia; with Germany to develop a climate-resilient low-carbon tea value chain and market for tea products in Kenya; and with the World Bank in support of improved agricultural water management in the Near East and North Africa Region.

The past four decades have been marked not only by accomplishments and project realizations in various sectors, but particularly by a solid partnership between China and FAO, without which none of the above would have been possible. More importantly, the strong partnership developed between FAO and China acts as a stepping stone towards achieving even greater successes in the future.

List of projects funded by China (ongoing over the 2009–2018 period)*

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget **	Start date	End date	Status***
GCP /DRC/051/CPR	Technical Assistance Services under the South–South Cooperation with the People's Republic of China in Support to Key Sectors of the National Agricultural Investment Programme (NAIP)	1 496 716	9/1/16	8/31/19	Ongoing
GCP /GLO/800/CPR	Support the Management Unit of FAO-China South–South Cooperation (SSC) Programme	4 233 840	5/1/17	12/31/22	Ongoing
GCP /GLO/808/CPR	The People`s Republic of China Support to the Global Capacity Development for Developing Countries	5 000 000	5/1/17	12/31/21	Ongoing
GCP /INT/291/CPR	Strengthening the Capacity of Developing CPs to Implement the IPPC under FAO-China SSC programme	2 007 541	2/24/17	12/31/20	Ongoing
GCP /MAG/087/CPR	SSC Assistance technique à la mise en ouvre du Programme sectoriel agriculture, élevage et pêche (PSAEP) et le Cadre de programmation par pays (CPP) 2014-2019 à Madagascar	1 430 055	11/1/18	11/30/20	Ongoing
GCP /RAS/303/CPR	FAO-China South–South Cooperation Project on Transboundary Animal Disease Control in the Greater Mekong Subregion	3 010 382	9/4/18	9/3/21	Ongoing
GCP /SRL/073/CPR	Technical Assistance under the South–South Cooperation (SSC) with the People`s Republic of China in support of improving production and commercialization of priority fruit value chains in Sri Lanka	1 140 074	12/6/18	12/6/20	Ongoing
GCP /ETH/080/CPR	South–South Cooperation Programme (SSC) with the People's Republic of China for technical assistance to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	2 018 400	4/18/12	5/21/15	Closed
GCP /INT/101/CPR	People's Republic of China Support to SPFS/NPFS/RPFS through South–South Cooperation	6 040 094	3/15/10	12/31/17	Closed

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget **	Start date	End date	Status***
GCP /INT/236/CPR	Strengthening the Implementation of GIAHS Initiative through Capacity Development	2 000 000	2/1/15	12/31/18	Closed
GCP /LIR/015/CPR	Technical Assistance under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) with the People's Republic of China in support of the National Programme for Food Security (NPFSS) in Liberia	1 324 813	6/1/12	5/30/14	Closed
GCP /MLI/036/CPR	Programme de Coopération Sud-Sud (CSS) d'assistance technique avec la République Populaire de Chine en appui au Programme National de Sécurité alimentaire (PNSA) du Mali	1 044 855	7/31/10	12/31/17	Closed
GCP /MLW/020/CPR	Technical Assistance under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) with the People's Republic of China in support of the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach (ASWAp) in Malawi	1 050 098	9/16/10	9/15/12	Closed
GCP /MON/004/CPR	Technical Assistance under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) with the People's Republic of China in support of the National Food Security Programme(NFSP) in Mongolia	1 379 872	3/15/10	9/14/13	Closed
GCP /MON/005/CPR	Capacity Building Mission in Support of Mongolia South South Cooperation with China	63 216	10/13/09	10/22/09	Closed
GCP /MON/010/CPR	Technical Assistance under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) with the People's Republic of China in support of the National Food Security Programme(NFSP) in Mongolia-Phase II	999 294	8/1/14	10/31/16	Closed
GCP /NAM/017/CPR	Technical Assistance under the South-South Cooperation with the People's Republic of China in support of the Fourth National Development Plan and the Green Scheme Policy in the Republic of Namibia	1 492 436	6/16/14	12/31/17	Closed
GCP /RAS/260/MUL	Making forestry work for the poor: Adapting forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies in Asia and the Pacific	340 000	3/3/10	12/31/11	Closed

*Contributions provided to the Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds are not included in this list.

**In USD, subject to change for ongoing projects.

***As of 1 January 2019.

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget **	Start date	End date	Status***
GCP /SEN/064/CPR	South- South Cooperation Programme (SSC) with the People's Republic of China for technical assistance to the National Support Programme for Food Security (NPF5) in Senegal	1 498 239	6/1/12	5/31/14	Closed
GCP /SIL/035/CPR	Technical Assistance under the South–South Cooperation (SSC) with the Government of The People's Republic of China in Support to Sierra Leone's National Programme for Food Security (Small-holder Commercialization Scheme)	1 149 180	9/1/10	8/31/12	Closed
GCP /UGA/040/CPR	Technical Assistance under the South–South Cooperation with the People's Republic of China in support of the Development Strategy & Investment Plan 2010/11–2015/16 in the Republic of Uganda	1 857 380	9/1/12	10/27/14	Closed
GCP /UGA/046/CPR	Technical Assistance under the South–South Cooperation with the People's Republic of China in support of the Agricultural Sector Strategy Plan in the Republic of Uganda: Phase 2	1 675 389	12/1/15	1/12/18	Closed
UTF /CPR/039/CPR	Capacity building Needs Assessment for the Strengthening of National Food Control Systems through a Training Course	65 845	11/1/08	9/30/09	Closed
UTF /CPR/050/CPR	Reducing environmental impact of plastics used in agriculture	99 472	3/1/11	4/30/12	Closed
UTF /CPR/060/CPR	Research on Agricultural Cooperation between FAO and China: Review and Way Forward	59 213	2/1/16	5/31/18	Closed

*Contributions provided to the Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds are not included in this list.

**In USD, subject to change for ongoing projects.

***As of 1 January 2019.

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